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6 MR. LAWSON: Susan Alzner.

7 MS. ALZNER: I want to start off by sharing  
8 something that I read earlier today and that  
9 really needs study, on the unsuitability of Yucca  
10 Mountain, just to kind of follow up on some of the  
11 1 things that Mary was saying. | Here is a quote from  
12 a final report, the total system performance  
13 assessment by the peer review panel associated  
14 with the DOE. It says, "With the benefit of  
15 hindsight the panel finds that at the present time  
16 an assessment of the future probable behavior of  
17 the proposed repository may be beyond the  
18 analytical capabilities of any scientific and  
19 engineering team. This is due to the complexity  
20 of the system and the nature of the data that now  
21 exists or that could be obtained in a reasonable  
22 time and cost." What this makes me feel like is  
23 that the people who are making decisions about  
24 this program know nothing or, at best, very little  
25 about what we're facing. | And that doesn't inspire

1 a lot of confidence in me.

2 I wanted to also bring out the point that  
3 when the nuclear industry was born, back in the  
4 '50s, the area where a lot of the testing and  
5 development was done was deemed a national  
6 sacrifice area, the Four Corners region. Now, why  
7 would we consider the birthplace of the industry a  
8 national sacrifice area if it was for the benefit  
9 of our nation? It seems a bit bizarre. So what I  
10 find is that the transportation issue of this  
11 nuclear waste, which, really, if you want to  
12 identify it as anything, it's the final end  
13 product of the nuclear industry and, in other  
14 words, nothing but a massive accumulation of  
15 lethal garbage -- the transportation of this end  
16 product, this lethal garbage of the nuclear  
17 industry, connects us all. It provides us with an  
18 opportunity to kind of unite and problem solve  
19 together. And, you know, this is something that  
20 we at Earth Challenge were concerned about when we  
21 formed the organization was how can we unify  
22 people so that we could kind of put an end to this  
23 sort of defensive lifestyles that we all seem to  
24 have and struggle.

25 And I want to put to you an image to bring

1           this down to a personal level because we are  
2           talking about these big, huge things that affect  
3           the whole country all night, and places that are  
4           seemingly far away from us. And let's bring it  
5           down to if the whole world was this room, imagine  
6           if one person fell sick over in that back corner,  
7           or died, God forbid. How many people would stand  
8           in this room and say, "That's statistically  
9           unlikely; I think I'm just going to stand here and  
10          ignore it"? I mean, really, we would all be  
11          rushing over there to try to help that person. We  
12          would be calling for help. We would -- you know,  
13          we would hope that all the right response  
14          mechanisms were in place. So why would we not  
15          extrapolate that out to the big picture with this  
16          program? Why is it acceptable for anybody -- if  
17          this was the whole world, all of us were the whole  
18          world, we would all know each other, and we  
19          wouldn't want anybody in here to be -- we wouldn't  
20          consider anybody an acceptable loss.

21                So, you know, just in closing, to bring this  
22          back around to Yucca Mountain, we had an  
23          opportunity to have that personal experience of  
24          that place. We traveled there, we arrived there  
25          after a lot of work. And we stripped our souls

1 down to the roots in getting there because it was  
2 2... so hard. [We finally get there on the final day of  
3 our trip, and we can't get to the place that we  
4 wanted to get to, the campsite at the mountain,  
5 because a road had been washed out by a flood.  
6 And we couldn't pass this sort of wash because it  
7 was too radioactive, we were told. We couldn't  
8 camp in it, and we didn't want to go past it. We  
9 didn't want to go in it, so we had to stop. We  
10 stopped where we were, to spend the night there in  
11 front of that wash. And we spent the night under  
12 the stars, and we developed a relationship with  
13 that mountain and with the land there. We had  
14 time with it. We woke up in the morning, and we  
15 discovered that this place which is so often  
16 thought of as arid -- maybe even people think  
17 there isn't very much life there because it's a  
18 desert, the desert -- it's a really complex place,  
19 and there's all kinds of life there: plants,  
20 animals, insects. Really, it was really vibrant;  
21 it was beautiful. And we all loved it, you know.  
22 And just along the lines of empathy that I was  
23 talking about within this room, I think it's a  
24 really big step for us but it's an important step  
25 that we start to recognize all these different

1 2cont. life forms and have empathy for them and put them  
2 into the equation, put everyone in this country  
3 into the equation, put every life form into the  
4 equation when we make any decisions, because we do  
5 not exist in spite of the life forms. We exist  
6 because of them. Thank you.

7 MR. LAWSON: Ms. Alzner, you made reference  
8 to a report which you have. If you'd like to  
9 submit that as an exhibit or at least give the  
10 reference for us, that would be helpful.

11 MR. HALSTEAD: Actually, Barry, I'm going to  
12 enter it as an exhibit next week in Washington  
13 when we talk about terrorism. I don't mind giving  
14 you a reference now.

15 MR. LAWSON: Is there anyone else who would  
16 like to speak?